

REMARKS

The Examiner will note that a number of minor amendments have been made to the claims of the present application. It should be noted that the amendments have not been made with view to overcoming any prior art of which the Applicants are aware, or that has been cited in the present Office Action. The above amendments have been made with a view more clearly to describe the invention and to correct obvious errors. The word "steps" has been removed from the method claims so as to avoid interpretation of the relevant method claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, paragraph 6. In view of the above, the indicated amendments will not require the Examiner to conduct a new search.

Claims 12-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5,845,267 (hereinafter Ronen). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

To anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim. "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

Claim 12, as amended, includes the limitations of:
"initially linking said electronic terminal with an access station via a first communications link;
establishing an account at said access station corresponding to said electronic terminal;
transmitting from said access station to said electronic terminal ISP connection information pertaining to said ISP;
using said connection information to link said electronic terminal with said Internet service provider via a second communications link;
monitoring time units associated with said second communications link;
multiplying said time units by a monetary rate to thereby obtain billing data; and
associating said billing data with said established account for billing purposes".

None of the limitations of Claim 12, as underlined above, are disclosed in Ronen. For example, Ronen does not in any way teach "establishing an account", "multiplying said time units by a monetary rate to thereby obtain billing data", or "associating said billing data with said established account for billing purposes".

Ronen describes use of an already existing account when purchasing tangible or intangible goods. "[T]he ISP before delivering the information , services or goods, or authorizing the delivery of such information, services or goods, obtains credit approval from the Billing Platform 120 connected to the Internet 104" (see Ronen column 5, lines 20-28). The charges raised in Ronen are for the particular goods or services and nowhere in Ronen is "monitoring time units associated with said second communications link; multiplying said time units by a monetary rate to thereby obtain billing data; and associating said billing data with said established account for billing" described. Table 1 in column 6 of Ronen sets out an example of the billing for transactions. Clearly, the limitations of Claim 12, as set out above, are not even vaguely suggested in Ronen.

In view of the above, it is submitted that Ronen does not disclose each and every limitation of Claim 12, as required to support a rejection of this claim under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). According Claim 12 is allowable. Claims 13-17 are dependent upon Claim 12, which is allowable, and are thus also allowable.

Claim 1 includes the limitations wherein "said access station establishes an account" and "said service provider monitors a time of said second communications link and transmits data indicative of said time to said access station". As mentioned above, Ronen does not disclose the establishment of an account nor does it disclose monitoring of a time of a communication link.

In view of the above, it is also submitted that Ronen does not disclose each and every limitation of Claim 1. According Claim 1 is also allowable. Claims 2-8 are dependent upon Claim 1, which is allowable, and are thus also allowable.

Claim 9 includes the limitations of an "access station" and "wherein, once a link between said electronic terminal and said electronic network service provider is established, said electronic network service provider monitors a number of time units associated with said established link and transmits data indicative of said time units to said access station for use in billing matters. As mentioned above, nowhere in Ronen are these limitations described. Accordingly, Ronen does not disclose each and every limitation of Claim 9. According Claim 9 is also allowable. Claims 10 and 11 are dependent upon Claim 9, which is allowable, and are thus also allowable.

New Claim 19 is an amended version of Claim 12 and includes the limitations of "establishing an account at said access station corresponding to said electronic terminal" and "associating billing data with said established account for billing purposes". These limitations are also not disclosed in Ronen which relates to purchasing goods or services via the internet. Thus, as Ronen does not disclose each and every limitation of Claim 19, as required to support a rejection of this claim under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), Claim 19 is allowable. Accordingly, Claim 20, which is dependent upon Claim 19, is also allowable.

From at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1 to 20 are novel in the light of Ronen and allowance of the claims is earnestly requested.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666. If a telephone interview would in any way expedite the prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact André Marais at (408) 947-8200.

Respectfully submitted,
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MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS

Claims

1. (Unamended) A system for accessing an electronic network with an electronic terminal via a service provider, said electronic terminal having an associated identifier, said system comprising:

an access station, wherein said electronic terminal initially links with said access station via a first communication link and wherein said identifier associated with said electronic terminal is transmitted to said access station, wherein said access station establishes an account based upon said identifier and transmits connection information back to said electronic terminal for use in establishing a second communications link between said electronic terminal and said service provider, wherein a second communications link is initiated between said electronic terminal and said service provider based upon said connection information, and wherein said service provider monitors a time of said second communications link and transmits data indicative of said time to said access station.

2. (Unamended) The system as set forth in claim 1, where in said access station associates said time with said account for billing purposes.

3. (Unamended) The system as set forth in claim 2, wherein said identifier of said electronic terminal is a telephone number.

4. (Unamended) The system as set forth in claim 3, wherein said electronic terminal is portable, and when said electronic terminal is used at a remote location from a home port associated with said telephone number, said access station requires entry of additional information.

5. (Unamended) The system as set forth in claim 4, wherein said additional information corresponds to said account.

6. (Unamended) The system as set forth in claim 4, wherein said additional information is indicative of dialing instructions at said remote location.

7. (Unamended) The system as set forth in claim 3, wherein a monetary amount corresponding to said time of said second link is charged to said telephone number.

8. (Unamended) The system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said access station associates a task with said identifier of said electronic terminal, wherein said password is transmitted to said electronic terminal via said first communications link and to said electronic network service provider via a third communications link.

9. (Unamended) A system for accessing an electronic network, said system comprising:

an electronic network service provider;

an access station;

an electronic terminal for accessing said electronic network, said electronic terminal having an associated identifier, wherein said electronic terminal links with said access station via a first communications link and said access station [(a)] stores data indicative of said identifier, [(b)] transmits said data indicative of said identifier to said electronic network service provider via a second communication link; and [(c)] provides said electronic terminal with an identifier associated with said electronic network service provider for use by said electronic terminal in linking with said electronic network service provider wherein, once a link between said electronic terminal and said electronic network service provider is established, said electronic network service provider monitors a number of time units associated with said established link and transmits data indicative of said time units to said access station for use in billing matters.

10. (Unamended) The system as set forth in claim 9, wherein said identifier associated with said electronic terminal is a telephone number associated with a subscriber.

11. (Unamended) The system as set forth in claim 9, wherein said identifier is an electronic address associated with a subscriber.

12. (Amended) A method of accessing the Internet with an electronic terminal and via an Internet service provider, said electronic terminal having an associated identifier, said method comprising:

[providing an access station;]

initially linking said electronic terminal with [said] an access station via a first communications link;

establishing an account at said access [terminal] station corresponding to said electronic terminal;

transmitting from said access station to said electronic terminal ISP connection information pertaining to said ISP;

using said connection information to link said electronic terminal with said Internet service provider via a second communications link;

monitoring time units associated with said second communications link;

multiplying said time units by a monetary rate to thereby obtain billing data; and

associating said billing data with said established account for billing purposes.

13. (Amended) The method as set forth in claim 12, wherein [said steps of] establishing said account further [comprising] comprises:

determining an identifier associated with said electronic terminal; and

using said identifier to establish a billing identifier.

14. (Amended) The method as set forth in claim 13, wherein [said step of] establishing an account further [comprising] comprises:

establishing a password for said account.

15. (Unamended) The method as set forth in claim 14, said method further comprising:

transmitting said billing identifier, said password, and an identifier associated with said Internet service provider to said electronic terminal as part of said connection information.

16. (Unamended) The method as set forth in claim 15, said method further comprising:

additionally transmitting said billing identifier and said password to said Internet service provider via a third communications link.

17. (Unamended) The method as set forth in claim 16, when said electronic terminal links with said Internet service provider via said second communications link, transmitting said billing identifier and said password from said electronic terminal to said Internet service provider and comparing said billing identifier and said password transmitted via said second link with said billing identifier and password transmitted via said third link for log on purposes at said Internet service provider.

19. (New) A method of accessing the Internet with an electronic terminal and via an Internet service provider, said electronic terminal having an associated identifier, said method comprising:

initially linking said electronic terminal with an access station via a first communications link;

establishing an account at said access station corresponding to said electronic terminal;

transmitting from said access station to said electronic terminal ISP connection information pertaining to said ISP;

using said connection information to link said electronic terminal with said Internet service provider via a second communications link; and

associating billing data with said established account for billing purposes.

20. (New) The method of Claim 19, wherein said identifier is a telephone number.